



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

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## **NEW YORK FARM NUMBERS HOLD STEADY**

After two years of increasing, the number of farms in New York for 2009 was unchanged from a year earlier, reports Stephen Ropel, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office. The number of farms for 2009 is estimated at 36,600. Land in farms remained at 7.10 million acres. Farms with sales over \$500,000 decreased by 300 to 2,000 while farms with sales between \$250,000 and \$499,999 fell by 100 to 1,600. The area of land operated by farms in these two groups totaled 2.84 million acres, 7 percent below a year ago. The next smaller sales class, farms with sales between \$100,000 and \$249,999 increased by 100 to 3,200 while land operated by these farms held at 960 thousand acres. There were 10,900 farms with sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999 compared with 10,800 a year earlier. Land they operated totaled 1.80 million acres. There were 200 more small farms with sales between \$1,000 and \$9,999 in 2009, at 18,900. Land in farms for this class increased 100,000 acres from the previous year to 1.50 million acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 2009 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2008. Total land in farms, at 919.8 million acres, decreased 110 thousand acres from 2008. The average farm size was 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm numbers declined slightly in the \$10,000-\$99,999, and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Lower commodity prices and smaller value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.5 percent, to 1.23 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class decreased by 1.0 percent to 124,720 farms.

Land in farms decreased in the smallest and largest sales classes. In the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 1.1 percent, to 105.5 million acres. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over in sales class decreased 1.0 percent, to 290.0 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$250,000-\$499,999 in sales increased by 4.1 percent.

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